(c) if so, what steps Government propose to educate extension workers for use of traditional pesticides for farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Agricultural Extension agencies advise farmers on the use of various inputs, including chemical fertilizers, based on recommendations of ICAR Institutes/States Agricultural Universities.

(c) IPM demonstration-cum-training programmes are being conducted to popularise and propogate IPM technology including need based use of pesticides among the State extension functionaries and farmers. Traditional pesticides are required to be used as a last resort under the ambit of Integrated pest Management (IPM) on the basis of Economic Threshold Levels (ETL). To determine ETL rapid roving surveys are undertaken to forewarn the farmers about timely plant protection measures. Efforts have been made to provide safer and selective pesticides even for need based application.

Boosting up of Agricultural Exports

1314. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to invest Rs. 650 crores for infrastructure creation to boost agricultural export;

(b) if so, the details of this proposal; and

(c) what are the projects on which this amount would be spent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) to (c) The proposal for preparing an Export Enhancement Programme for Horticulture Produce is at a preliminary stage of consideration. The proposal envisages an investment of Rs. 662.56 crores including Government's budgetary support of Rs. 239.50 crores. The investments are proposed to be focussed on development of infrastructural facilities, promotion of export-oriented production and export promotion/market development measures.

Food Production in the Country

1315. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have worked out any strategy to meet the shortage of food production by the turn of the century because the country's population is likely to grow to one billion and will require at least 220 million tons against 175 million tons at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Government have worked out the following strategy to increase foodgrains production in the country :

(i) Expansion of area under location specific high yield varieties;

(ii) Increased use of quality seeds;